

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the distribution of fonts by rental, the method comprising:

a font consumer requesting a font from a font provider;
the font provider accessing subscription information for the font consumer;

the font provider sending the requested font to the font consumer depending on the subscription information, the font provider giving lifetime information with the requested font, the lifetime information defining a predetermined period of time for which the font consumer is authorized to use the requested font and defining a predetermined access for use based on the subscription information; and

the font consumer receiving the requested font and providing the requested font to an application by installing the requested font in the font consumer for the predetermined period of time and for the predetermined access, wherein the required font is tracked so that upon expiration of said predetermined period of time, the font is disabled.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of the font consumer requesting the font from the font provider comprises:

the font consumer accessing a web site of the font provider;

the font consumer logging onto the web site; and

the font consumer identifying the requested font.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of the font provider accessing the subscription information for the font consumer comprises:

accessing a subscriber database;

looking up the font consumer in the subscriber database; and

reading font privileges associated with the font consumer.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the step of the font provider accessing the subscription information for the font consumer further comprises debiting an account of the font consumer.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of the font provider sending the requested font to the font consumer comprises:

the font provider encrypting the font prior to transmission to the font consumer.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of the font provider sending the requested font to the font consumer comprises:

the font provider giving privilege information with the font, the ~~privileges~~ privilege information defining approved uses for the requested font by the font consumer.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the step of the font consumer receiving the requested font, ~~and providing the requested font to the application comprises:~~

the installing of the requested font occurs in random access memory of the font consumer.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A font manager for~~ A system for managing fonts by rental on a computer, comprising:

a font request interceptor receiving demands for fonts from applications running on the computer;

a font retriever for requesting the demanded fonts from a remote font provider if the demanded fonts are not installed on the computer, the font retriever providing subscription information to the remote font provider;

a font installer for receiving and installing the demanded fonts; and

a font tracker for monitoring and controlling use of the demanded fonts by the applications in response to

privilege information received from the remote font provider, said privilege information defining a predetermined time period of use and a predetermined use access, and wherein the font tracker disables the demanded font after expiration of said predetermined time period.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A font manager~~ The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the font retriever accesses a web site of the font provider and logs onto the web site to be identified by the font provider.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A font manager~~ The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the font retriever decrypts the demanded font.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A font manager~~ The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the font installer installs the demanded font into random access memory of the font consumer.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for the distribution of fonts by rental, the method comprising:

a font consumer requesting a font from a font provider and providing payment for the font based on subscription information defining a specified time period of use and a

specified use access;

the font provider sending the requested font to the font consumer along with a license for the font consumer that enables the font consumer to use the font for ~~a~~ the specified time period of time and the specified use access; and

the font consumer receiving the requested font and providing the requested font to an application for the specified period of time at the specified use access, wherein upon expiration of said specified time period, the requested font is disabled.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising the font provider accessing the subscription information for the font consumer.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of the font consumer requesting the font from the font provider comprises:

the font consumer accessing a web site of the font provider;

the font consumer logging onto the web site; and

the font consumer identifying the requested font.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of the font provider sending the requested font to the font consumer comprises:

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the font provider encrypting the font prior to
transmission to the font consumer.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).